recapitalised and 29 RRBs are partially recapitalised. Out of 196 RRBs, TRRBs have not been provided recapitalisation support so far. Two RRBs do not require recapitalisation support. Due to the budgetary constraints, the process of recapitalisation of RRBs could not be continued. In view of the financial performance of RRBs it is expected that the RRBs will be able to stand on their own in the near future.

Drug trafficking in Delhi and Haryana

†3722. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi and Haryana have become the major centre for drug trafficking after the fall of Taliban Regime in Afghanistan;

(b) whether it is also a fact that drugs worth crores of rupees has been seized in Delhi and Haryana recently;

(c) if so, the number of criminals apprehended alongwith the number of criminals punished; and

(d) what are the details of stringent steps Government have taken to curb the menace of drugs completely?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The proximity to the international border and good air-linkage with other countries makes Delhi and its neighbouring State Haryana vulnerable to drug trafficking, which is a clandestine activity. Seizure of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances during 2002 as compared with those in

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

the previous years in Delhi and Haryana, as reported by various drug law enforcement agencies, do not indicate increasing trend.

(b) During 2002 (upto March), as reported by various Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, 15.80 kgs. of Opium, 21.76 kgs. of Heroin, 32.75 kgs. of Ganja and 36.99 kgs. of Hashish have been seized in Delhi and 41.48 kgs. of Opium, 0.04 kgs. of Heroin, 6.80 kgs. of Ganja and 13.87 kgs. of Hashish have been seized in Haryana. All confiscated narcotics are liable to be destroyed and no authentic market value exists. Hence valuation of the above mentioned seized narcotics is not possible.

(c) The total number of persons arrested for drug trafficking in Delhi and Haryana during the year 2002 (upto March), as reported by the various Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, is 118 and 60 respectively. All the arrested persons are liable to be prosecuted and punished under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985.

(d) The Government of India has taken a number of steps to prevent and put effective check on drug trafficking. These include instructions to all drug enforcement agencies to maintain utmost vigil and step up enforcement efforts, training to officers, fencing and flood lighting of Indo-Pak border, vesting of powers in the Border Security Force and Coast Guards under the Customs Act to interdict narcotic drugs, notifying certain precursor chemicals, *viz.*, Acetic Anhydride, Ephedrine etc. as 'Controlled Substances' under the NDPS Act, quarterly coordination meetings by the Narcotics Control Bureau with all Central and State Agencies concerned, holding of periodic bilateral meetings of Indian and Pakistani anti-narcotics agencies, holding of operational level meetings with Myanmar officials and providing some assistance to Myanmar.